

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the May 13, 2014 Meeting

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:08 a.m. at the Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301. Tom Raffio presided as Chairman.

Members present: Tom Raffio, Cindy C. Chagnon, Bill Duncan, Helen G. Honorow, Gregory Odell, and Emma Rous. Gary Groleau was unable to attend this meeting. Paul K. Leather, Deputy Commissioner of Education, was present. Virginia M. Barry, Commissioner of Education was unable to attend this meeting.

Chairman Raffio welcomed Bill Duncan as a new Board member.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bill Duncan led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IV. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Update on Charter Schools – Chairman Raffio said that Strong Foundations Charter School would be submitting an amendment to their charter at the June 12th State Board meeting. There is a possibility Micro Society Charter School would come before the Board in June.

B. Update on Unity - Judy Fillion and Chip Baldwin, Principal of the Unity Elementary School, reported that the Unity construction project is on target to open for the 2014-2015 school year. The State Board will be invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony.

C. Discussion on Strategic Items – Goals – Chairman Raffio asked Board members to review the metrics that Heather had forwarded to be sure those are the commitments you want to be involved in. If there are others please let me know along with Heather. Helen Honorow mentioned she would like to continue to be involved in the Teacher Effectiveness project as it is an ongoing committee.

D. Miscellaneous – Chairman Raffio said that Cindy had attended several award programs and that Greg will be attending the North Country Charter Academy graduation. Cindy mentioned she has also been involved in the Teacher of the Year visitations.

Chairman Raffio would like the Department to have an orientation for Bill Duncan.

Deputy Commissioner Leather reported on the last four years of the dropout report by subgroup. The dropout numbers are up statewide from last year. Mr. Leather distributed a school enrollment report.

Mr. Leather said that Department staff will be meeting with the Manchester School of Technology leadership soon and this will be an item at the June meeting.

Chairman Raffio said he and Bill Duncan will be participating in a debate at St. Anselm's College on May 19 on the Common Core State Standards.

Chairman Raffio said the due process hearing from last month has been assigned to a different hearing officer.

Chairman Raffio said he had participated in a program with NHPR on college ready employees.

AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. DRED Manufacturing Video Content - Christopher Way, Deputy Director of the NH Division of Economic Development, and Zenagui Brahim, Director of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, provided the Board with an overview of the Advanced Manufacturing Video Contest. The Contest is endorsed by the Governor's Office and seeks to partner students and manufacturers to create videos from the student point of view illustrating "what's cool" about the industry. Students will experience manufacturing first hand and will tell a story to others that illustrates a modernized view and numerous career opportunities. Information will be sent to the schools by the end of May, manufacturers will be lined up over the summer, and the contest will begin in the fall. Board members decided a letter of endorsement regarding the Advanced Manufacturing Video Contest should be sent to Superintendents of Schools by the Chairman on behalf of the Board.

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board members direct the Chairman to send a letter of endorsement to Superintendents of Schools regarding the Advanced Manufacturing Video Contest.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

B. Enriching New Hampshire's Assessment and Accountability Systems Through Quality Performance Assessment – Science Competencies – Scott Marion and Rose Colby presented a power point presentation. Since 2005, the Department has promoted and required student demonstration of mastery of course level competencies. In 2012, New Hampshire's submission for the ESEA Flexibility waiver to the US Department of Education included an increased emphasis on competency-based education and performance assessment aligned with the Common Core in English language arts and mathematics. In addition, New Hampshire schools require model graduation competencies in the other core areas. To this purpose, statewide competencies in science have been developed aligned to College and Career Ready Standards. Ed 306.27(d) requires that high school credit be earned by demonstrating mastery of required competencies for the course and that the policy shall require students to meet both state and local standards. These competencies represent, in part, the state standards for demonstration of competency in science. Approval of this request is consistent with the competency assessment requirement in Ed 306.27(d) and strengthens the educational outcomes for New Hampshire students through greater consistency and reliability of performance assessment within and across schools.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education approve the competencies in science for statewide use by the public schools, K-12, and for the Department of Education's use in its statewide assessment system, as presented.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

C. Petition Town of Lempster – Within the last year, following the cooperative school district vote, the State Board approved and certified a change in the apportionment formula. The formula was subsequently certified by the Department of Revenue, tax rates were set, and tax bills went out in November. Concurrently, the Town of Goshen sought judicial intervention in Sullivan County Superior Court seeking authority to reconsider the cooperative school district's vote to change the apportionment formula. On February 1, 2014, pursuant to a court order, the cooperative school district held a meeting to reconsider the formula. The Towns now dispute whether the district had the authority under RSA 195:8 to change the formula at this time. (RSA 195:8 allows cooperative school districts to change the formula after the expiration of the five-year period measured from the date of the meeting at which the last change was made to the cost apportionment formula). The last meeting occurred on March 9, 2013. The parties dispute the effect of the March 9, 2013 vote in light of Judge Tucker's order. The Town of Lempster has filed a petition for declaratory ruling under N.H. Administrative Rule Ed 215.02 and seeks an order from the State Board finding the February 1, 2014 vote of the cooperative school district to change the apportionment formula to be in violation of RSA 195:8. As such, the Town of Lempster seeks a ruling that the apportionment formula set at the March 9, 2013 meeting to be effective. The following people were present and testified: Justin Richardson, Attorney for Lempster; and Bernard Waugh, Attorney for Goshen. There were members from both school districts in the audience. Patrick Queenan, Attorney from the Attorney General's Office, was present and led the discussion.

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education refer the Petition for Declaratory Ruling of the Town of Lempster to the Attorney General's Office for a legal opinion.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

Attorney Queenan said the twenty days will begin after the opinion has been completed.

D. Colebrook-Pittsburg Key Clubs – “We Make a Difference” – SAU #7
 Gregory Odell said he had heard of the successes this Key Club is having and wanted them to make a presentation before the Board. Nineteen students from Pittsburg and Colebrook Key Club traveled to Concord to meet with the Board. Key Clubbers were invited to present to the Board after one of their members had learned about the many awards the division 8 clubs earned at the annual conference held in May. Colebrook past President Jessi Frechette and current Pittsburg President Ian Pfaff lead the presentation to the Board. They shared details about Key Club as an organization including the mission statement, core values, and pledge. In addition each club shared details about their most successful projects. The events shared included Colebrook’s prescription drug awareness program and science fair. Pittsburg discussed their fundraising project for the Make-a-Wish Foundation, and St. Jude Math-a-Thon fundraising and math literacy event. Board members were able to look through both clubs scrapbooks following the presentation. The Key Club students were accompanied by SAU 7 Superintendent Robert Mills, Colebrook Advisor Lindy Falconer, and Pittsburg Advisors April Cartwright and Norma Underhill.

E. Vocational Rehabilitation State Plan – Lisa Hatz and Ella McAllister met with the Board. Title I of the Rehabilitation Act authorizes a formula grant program to assist states in operating a statewide program of vocational rehabilitation services. This program is designated to provide vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities, so that such individuals may prepare for, enter, and engage in gainful employment. Title VI, Part B also authorizes a formula grant program to provide supported employment services for individuals with the most significant disabilities to enter or retain competitive employment. With an approved State Plan the State of New Hampshire will be able to receive formula grant monies to provide services to over 8,000 students and adults with disabilities. Last year the Agency assisted 1,162 individuals with disabilities to achieve employment. Ms. Hatz distributed a success story regarding a Project SEARCH graduate at Portsmouth Regional Hospital.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education approve the State Plan for the State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program under Title I and the State Plan Supplement for the State Supported Employment Services Program under Title VI, Part B of the Rehabilitation Act for fiscal year 2015.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

Helen Honorow mentioned that Commissioner Barry and Commissioner Toumpas from the Department of Health and Human Services toured the Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinic in Nashua and it was in connection with Gateways and Project Search. The vocational rehabilitation plan presented meets our stated needs for a focus on college and career readiness for our students with disabilities.

F. United States Senate Youth Program – Lori Temple met with the Board. In 1962 the United States Senate passed a resolution creating the United States Senate Youth Program. This is a national initiative to provide a yearly opportunity for talented young people with demonstrated interest in public service to deepen their interest and understanding of America's political processes and encourage their commitment to political leadership. Each year this extremely competitive merit-based program brings 104 of the most outstanding high school students to Washington, DC for an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it. Ms. Temple introduced Jesse Austin from Newfound Regional High School, and Leah Stagnone from Campbell High School. Each student spoke of their experiences in this program and provided the Board with pictures of their meetings with the New Hampshire Senators.

G. Student/Well School – SB-FY-13-04-006 – Settled – The Parents' appeal was in relation to actions by the Well School regarding an allegation of improper expulsion; failure to follow school internal policy and state level requirements, including identifying local school board and/or appeals process. By correspondence dated February 11, 2014, the parties advised that they had settled this matter and the Parent was withdrawing the hearing request. The Hearing Officer recommends that this case be closed.

MOTION: Bill Duncan made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer's Report and adopt the Hearing Officer's Recommendation.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

H. Student/Kearsarge Regional School Board – SB-FY-14-11-006 – This item was rescheduled to the June 12, 2014 meeting.

MOTION: Bill Duncan made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, to move the Student/Kearsarge Regional School Board – SB-FY-14-11-006 - to the June 12, 2014 State Board meeting.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM VI. NEW DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Paul Leather reported that the Minimum Standards are in force as presented at a Board meeting but the adequacy section of the Standards will be brought up at the next legislative session. There are about eleven sections of the Minimum Standards that relate to adequacy. Board members would like a list of the sections dealing with adequacy for the June 12th Board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM VII. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

A. Final Proposal – Ed 1113.04-.06, 1114.07-.09, 1120.04(a) Intro. & (a) Intro., (a)(1)&(2), & Ed 1200 – Child Restraint Practices, Behavioral Interventions, Parental Consent, and Access to Public and Private Insurance - A vote is needed by the State Board to adopt these rules. The JLCAR has approved this final proposal at their April 25, 2014 meeting. The State Board may now adopt the rule.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, that the State Board of Education adopt Ed 1113.04-06 and Ed 1114.07-.09, Behavioral Interventions, Ed 1120.08, Parental Consent and Access to Public Insurance, and Ed 1200, Child Restraint Practices in rule filing 2013-129.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. NEW BOARD BUSINESS

There was no New Board Business at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IX. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Deputy Commissioner Leather said he had been attending the Governor's STEM Task Force and they are breaking into subcommittees to discuss standards. There will very possibly be a strong statement on math and science standards as math is not rigorous enough and the science standards have not been upgraded since 2006. New Hampshire has not adopted the Next Generation Science Standards.

AGENDA ITEM X. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XI. CONSENT AGENDA**A. Minutes of April 24, Meeting**

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Emma Rous, to approve the Minutes of April 24, 2014.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by a 5 - 2 vote of the Board present, with Cindy Chagnon and Bill Duncan abstaining, and with the Chairman voting.

B. Minutes of Nonpublic Session April 24, 2014

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, to approve the Minutes of Nonpublic Session April 24, 2014.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by a 5 - 2 vote of the Board present, with Cindy Chagnon and Bill Duncan abstaining, and with the Chairman voting.

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, to seal the Minutes of Nonpublic Session April 24, 2014.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by a 5 - 2 vote of the Board present, with Cindy Chagnon and Bill Duncan abstaining, and with the Chairman voting.

C. Milton School District Withdrawal Study Committee Report – RSA 194-C:2,I,(c) requires that a withdrawal study committee submit its report to the voters at their next annual school district meeting. Since the report of the committee is that Milton will not be seeking a separation from SAU #64, Milton/Wakefield, the Board's acceptance of the report will complete the withdrawal study process. The report will be placed in the Department's SAU #64 school district file.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, that the State Board of Education accept the report from the Milton School District and place the report on file.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by an unanimous vote of the Board present, and with the Chairman voting.

D. Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District's Apportionment Formula – The State Board accepts the records submitted by the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District that documents evidence of a change in the apportionment formula for operating costs that were approved by the 2014 annual school district meeting and issue a certificate to provide conclusive evidence of lawful adoption of the change in apportionment formula. At the annual school district meeting of the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District on March 20, 2014 they approved the warrant article by a vote of 227-124 to change the apportionment formula for the allocation of operative expenses in the cooperative school district to an alternative method of apportioning operating costs, pursuant to RSA 195:14-a. The change is to a fixed percentage broken down as 65% of all capital outlay costs and all operational costs to be paid by the Town of Lincoln and 35% of all capital outlay costs and all operational costs to be paid by the Town of Woodstock. Issuance of the certificate by the State Board of Education will provide the district with conclusive evidence of lawful adoption of a change in the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District apportionment formula for operating expenses.

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the State Board of Education, having found that the vote was properly noticed and the necessary approval by the voters having been obtained, does now issue its certificate to the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

E. Certification of Vote Milan Dummer AREA Agreement – The State Board of Education approved the Milan Dummer amended AREA plan on December 19, 2013 to extend the current agreement until June 30, 2018. The Dummer and the Milan School Boards have signed the amended AREA attesting to the approval by all parties involved. The Dummer and Milan School Districts voted 25-2 and 89-3, respectively, at their annual school district meetings on March 11 and 10, 2014 to accept the amended AREA plan as provided in RSA 195-A:3. The clerks of the school boards have submitted the evidence required by RSA 195-A:3 in order for the State Board to make its finding and issue its certificate. Based on the evidence submitted, the State Board may now issue a certificate. Issuance of the certificate by the State Board of Education will provide the district with conclusive evidence of the lawful amended AREA plan between Dummer and Milan.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the State Board of Education, having found that the amended AREA plan between the Milan School District and the Dummer School District was lawfully adopted, now issues its certificate.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM XII. TABLED ITEMS

There are no Tabled Items at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XIII. NONPUBLIC SESSION

The Board did not go into nonpublic session at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

Virginia M. Barry

Secretary